

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANILA 11979 030847Z

ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-04 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /023 W

-----058512 031208Z /44

R 030711Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3209

UNCLAS MANILA 11979

PASS USDA/FAS/MCCONNELL, SUGAR & TROP. PRODS, FCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJ: ASEAN INTEREST IN BUYING PHILIPPINE SUGAR

1. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE TIMES JOURNAL ON JULY 30, 1977, UNDER-SECRETARY OF TRADE VICENTE VALDEPENAS, STATED THAT SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA ARE INTERESTED IN SIGNING LONG-TERM PURCHASE CONTRACTS WITH THE PHILIPPINES. FEW SPECIFICS CONCERNING FUTURE SALES WERE GIVEN ALTHOUGH SINGAPORE IS REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN 24,000 MT AND INDONESIA IS INTERESTED IN REFINED SUGAR. MALAYSIA, THE LARGEST OF THE THREE MARKETS, IS INTERESTED IN RESTRUCTURING ITS SUGAR CONTRACT WITH AUSTRALIA TO ALLOW PURCHASES FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

2. COMMENT. AT THIS TIME SUGAR PURCHASES BY THESE COUNTRIES COULD BE RELATIVELY SMALL AND DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT ASEAN NATIONS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT COMPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIES. IN THE LONG TERM, HOWEVER, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE AN IMPORTANT POTENTIAL MARKET FOR PHILIPPINE SUGAR EXPORTS. IN 1975, THE THREE ASEAN SUGAR IMPORTING COUNTRIES MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AND INDONESIA IMPORTED ROUGHLY 600,000 MT OF RAW SUGAR (MALAYSIA 354,000 MT, SINGAPORE 150,000 MT AND INDONESIA 95,000 MT).

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STULL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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